

I oppose elimination of proficiency in Morse Code as a test requirement for the General and Amateur Extra Class Licenses.

Amateur radio's fundamental reason for existence is to serve the Public Interest as a resource for: Emergency Communications; Homeland Defense; and the U.S. Military (as a pool of Operators).

Amateur Radio MUST RETAIN a Morse Code capability in order to successfully respond to future emergencies.

Morse Code should be removed as a requirement for an Amateur Radio General or Extra Class License ONLY if we can GUARANTEE that it will never be needed in the future for Emergency Communications; Homeland Defense; or as an asset for the U.S. Military.

A no-code License already exists - - the Technician Class License. Thus, it is not necessary to eliminate Morse Code as a requirement for the General and Extra Class Licenses in order to encourage new entrants to Amateur Radio.